

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an Examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on 14 September 2009, Mr. Aamer S. Ahmed, requested an extension of time for a total of 1 MONTH(S) and authorized the Commissioner to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0417 the required fee of \$65.00 for this extension and authorized the following Examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are as listed in the entered response filed 26 August 2009, except as amended herein below:

-- 8. (Currently Amended) A method of determining amount of prostaglandin in a plasma sample comprising:

(1) providing a plasma sample from ~~the~~ a patient in contact with a surface coated with an anti-immunoglobulin antibody;

(2) incubating the plasma sample with an effective amount of an anti-6-keto-prostaglandin $F_{1\alpha}$ (6-keto-PGF $_{1\alpha}$) antibody, wherein the anti-immunoglobulin antibody binds to

the anti-6-keto-PGF_{1α}-antibody[[:]]_a and with a conjugate comprising 6-keto-PGF_{1α} covalently bound to an aequorin mutant[[:]]_a

wherein said aequorin mutant comprises serine substitutions for all three cysteine residues as present in wild-type aequorin (Cys → Ser), wherein said aequorin mutant further comprises a single cysteine residue substituted at amino acid position 69 (Ala69 → Cys), 70 (Gly70 → Cys), 74 (Gly74 → Cys) or 76 (Glu76 → Cys), and

wherein the 6-keto-PGF_{1α} is coupled to the aequorin mutant via reaction with the sulfhydryl group of the single cysteine[[:]]_a

(3) removing any unbound anti-6-keto-PGF_{1α}-antibody and said conjugate following incubation; ~~and~~

(4) measuring light intensity of the 6-keto-PGF_{1α} conjugate bound to the anti-immunoglobulin antibody; and

(5) correlating the light intensity of the bound 6-keto-PGF_{1α} conjugate with the amount of the prostaglandin in the plasma sample. --

-- 23. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein the amount of the prostaglandin in the sample is correlated with prostacyclin amount in the sample. --

Art Unit: 1641

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James L. Grun, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0821. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya, SPE, can be contacted at (571) 272-0806.

The phone number for official facsimile transmitted communications to TC 1600, Group 1640, is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application, or requests to supply missing elements from Office communications, should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/J. L. G./

James L. Grun, Ph.D.
Examiner, Art Unit 1641
September 26, 2009

/Ann Y. Lam/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641
September 16, 2009